

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application. By this Response, claims 1, 5, 13, 16-19, 21, 25, 29, 32 and 37 are amended. Claim 1, 13 and 21 and 37 are amended to recite features of receiving user input to a Web page via a Web browser at a client device; sending an instruction to store user input and a Web page field identifier in a directory server from a background application running on the client device; storing the user input and a corresponding Web page field identifier in the directory server; and in response to receiving a user request, via a Web browser, for the Web page, sending a request from the background application running on the client device to the directory server to retrieve the user input and corresponding Web page identifier, wherein the user input and corresponding Web page field identifier are retrieved from the directory server.

Claims 5, 17 and 25 are amended to recite features of receiving a Web page retrieval request having a Web page identifier identifying the Web page from a Web browser running on the client device; sending the Web page identifier to the directory server from the background application running on the client device; and receiving the user input and Web page field identifier from the directory server in response to sending the Web page identifier from the background application running on the client device.

Claims 12 and 20 are canceled. Claims 16 and 17 are amended to be consistent with claim 13 and claim 18 and 19 are amended to be consistent with claim 17. Claims 29 is amended to recite features of receiving user input to a Web page from a background application running on a client device; storing the user input and a corresponding Web page field identifier received from the background application running on the client device in the directory server, wherein the user input and corresponding Web page field identifier are downloaded from the directory server to the client device in response to a user request for a Web page. Claim 32 is amended to recite features of receiving, from the background application running on the client device, a Web page identifier identifying the Web page; retrieving the user input and the Web page field identifier in response to receiving the Web page identifier; and sending the user input and Web page identifier to the background application running on the client device. Reconsideration of

the claims in view of the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Alleged Anticipation for claims 1-7, 9, 11, 13-18, 21-27, 29-33 35, 36-40

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 9, 11, 13-18, 21-27, 29-33, 35, 36-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Larsen et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,088,700). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As to independent claim 1, the Office Action states:

Referring to claim 1, Larsen has taught a method for maintaining state information for web page (see title and abstract), comprising:

receiving user input to a Web page (abstract, Col 2 lines 8-13, 30-33, Col 3 lines 14-16, the user input is used for future automatically form filling on the web page);

storing the user input and a corresponding web page field identifier (abstract, Col. 17 lines 25-45) in a directory server (Col 3 lines 12-14, database of Larsen is a directory server), wherein when the Web page is next accessed, the user input and corresponding Web page field identifier are retrieved from the directory server (abstract, Col 2 lines 8-11, 20-38.)

Office Action dated July 2, 2003, pages 2-3.

Amended independent claim 1, which is representative of similar features in claims 13, 21 and 37, now recites:

1. A method for maintaining state information for Web pages, comprising:
receiving user input to a Web page via a Web browser at a client device;
sending an instruction to store user input and a Web page field identifier in a directory server from a background application running on the client device;
storing the user input and a corresponding Web page field identifier in the directory server; and
in response to receiving a user request, via the Web browser, for the Web page, sending a request from the background application running on the client device to the directory server to retrieve the user input and corresponding Web page field identifier, wherein the user input and corresponding Web page field identifier are retrieved from the directory server.
(emphasis added)

A prior art reference anticipates the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 only if every element of a claimed invention is identically shown in that single reference,

arranged as they are in the claims. *In re bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 832, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566, 1567 (Fed. Cir. 1990). All limitations of the claimed invention must be considered when determining patentability. *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 1582, 21 U.S.P.Q.2d 1031, 1034 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Anticipation focuses on whether a claim reads on the product or process a prior art reference discloses, not on what the reference broadly teaches. *Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 713 F.2d 760, 218 U.S.P.Q. 781 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Applicant respectfully submits that Larsen does not teach every element of the claimed invention arranged as they are in claim 1. Specifically, Larsen does not teach receiving user input to a Web page via a Web browser at a client device; sending an instruction to store user input and a Web page field identifier in a directory server from a background application running on the client device; and in response to receiving a user request, via the Web browser, for the Web page, sending a request from the background application running on the client device to the directory server to retrieve the user input and corresponding Web page field identifier.

Larsen teaches a system that automatically completes multiple forms for multiple companies or regulatory agencies, by filling out information once on any form presented on the user's browser. With the Larsen system, a company must register its forms, which may then be populated with information entered by a user. The user in Larsen enters a form identifier and user input to be entered into the form. The data processing system retrieves tagged information previously entered by the user and stored in a database, and automatically inserts the data in a similarly tagged uncompleted fields of any number and variety of registered forms (column 2, lines 24-35). Larsen uses a Mapping Application to identify the forms, their fields and the clients subscribing to each form, and then map that information into a relational database. Larsen then uses Web Form Filler that uses a web server that allows potential candidates or employees of a company to fill out the forms electronically (column 2, lines 8-12).

However, Larsen does not teach sending an instruction to store user input and a Web page field identifier in a directory server from a background application running on the client device and sending a request from the background application running on the client device to the directory server to

retrieve the user input and corresponding Web page field identifier as recited in independent claim 1. Larsen does not teach or suggest any background application that runs on a client device. Larsen only teaches a tool that allows an external entity to submit form information to the Mapping Application over the Global Information Network (column 3, lines 23-25). Larsen also does not teach a background application that performs functions such as sending an instruction to store user input and Web page field identifier in a directory server or sending a request to retrieve the user input and Web page field identifier from the directory server.

A background application is an application that runs in the background of a Web browser, such that the user is not aware of the operations being performed by the background application. The background application recited in claim 1 runs in parallel with the Web browser. When a user requests a Web page, the background application retrieves user input and Web page fields from the directory server and populates the Web page without a user's request. However, Larsen does not teach such a feature. To the contrary, Larsen teaches that a user requests a form that is stored with form fields pre-filled in a database. The system of Larsen requires a user's awareness to request a form that has pre-filled form fields, as opposed to a background information of the presently claimed invention that retrieves form fields from the directory server and pre-fills the Web page fields automatically without user's awareness. In addition, Larsen does not teach a background application that automatically performs functions such as sending a request to retrieve user input and Web page field identifier without user's awareness. The system of Larsen requires the user to send a request to retrieve the populated form. Thus, Larsen does not teach the background application features as recited in claims 1, 13, 21 and 37.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that Larsen does not teach each and every feature of independent claim 1 as is required under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). The other independent claims 13, 21 and 37 recite similar features of claim 1. Therefore, the other independent claims 13, 21 and 37 recite similar features that are not taught by Larsen. Applicant respectfully

submits that Larsen does not teach each and every feature of claims 1, 13, 21 and 37. At least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1, 13, 21 and 37, respectively, Larsen does not teach each and every feature of dependent claims 2-7, 9, 11, 14-18, 22-27, 30-33, 35, 36, 38-40. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-7, 9, 11, 14-18, 22-27, 30-33, 35, 36, 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In addition to the above, Larsen does not teach the specific features recited in dependent claims 2-7, 9, 11, 14-18, 22-27, 30-33, 35, 36, 38-40. For example, dependent claim 5, which is representative to similar features in claims 17 and 25, now recites:

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving a Web page retrieval request having a Web page identifier identifying the Web page from a Web browser running on the client device;
 - sending the Web page identifier to the directory server from the background application running on the client device; and
 - receiving the user input and Web page field identifier from the directory server in response to sending the Web page identifier from the background application running on the client device.(emphasis added)

Larsen does not teach sending the Web page identifier to the directory server from the background application running on the client device. As stated in the above arguments, Larsen does not teach or suggest any background application running on the client device, nor does Larsen teach a background application that performs specific functions such as sending the Web page identifier to the directory server.

With the background application of the invention recited in claim 5 that runs on the client device, a user thinks he or she is visiting a Web page in a normal fashion, however, specific functions are performed in the background to retrieve user input and Web page field identifier and populate the Web page without the user's awareness. Larsen does not teach such a feature as recited in claim 5. Larsen only teaches that a user has to request a form that is stored with pre-filled fields from the user input. The system of Larsen does not perform

specific functions such as sending Web page identifier to the directory server in the background without user's request. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Larsen does not teach each and every specific feature recited in claims 5, 17 and 25.

In addition, Larsen does not teach each and every feature recited in dependent claims 29 and 32. Amended dependent claim 29, now recites:

29. A method, in a directory server, for maintaining state information for Web pages, comprising:
receiving user input to a Web page from a background application running on a client device; and
storing the user input and a corresponding Web page field identifier received from the background application running on the client device in the directory server, wherein the user input and corresponding Web page field identifier are downloaded from the directory server to the client device in response to a user request for a Web page.
(emphasis added)

Larsen does not teach a method in a directory server that receives user input to a Web page from a background application running on a client device. Larsen only teaches, in column 3, lines 61-63, a system that receives a request from a user for a form over a Global Information Network or Local Network and enters information on his or her display. In the Abstract, Larsen teaches to use data stored in a database to automatically fill out data fields of the forms displayed on the web browser. Larsen never suggest what the user's display actually is. Assuming that the display is a normal Web browser, as stated in the abstract, Larsen does not teach or suggest receiving user input to a Web page from a background application that runs in parallel with the Web browser on the client device that stores user input in the directory server, as recited in claim 29. Thus, Applicant submits that Larsen does not teach or suggest each and every feature recited in dependent claims 29 and 32.

Therefore, Larsen also does not teach each and every specific feature recited in dependent claim 2-7, 9, 11, 14-18, 22-27, 30-33, 35, 36, 38-40 in addition to the features of their respective independent claims. Accordingly,

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 2-7, 9, 11, 14-18, 22-27, 30-33, 35, 36, 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Alleged Obviousness for claims 8, 10, 19, 28, 34 and 36

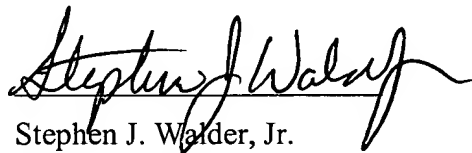
The Office Action rejects claims 8, 10, 19, 28, 34 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Larsen et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,088,700). As described above, Larsen does not teach each and every feature of independent claims 1, 13 and 21. Since claims 8, 10, 19, 28, 34, and 36 are dependent upon independent claims 1, 13 and 21, Larsen also does not teach each and every feature of claims 8, 10, 19, 28, 34, and 36. Therefore, at least by virtue of their dependencies, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8, 10, 19, 28, 34 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

III. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over Larsen et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,088,700) and is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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